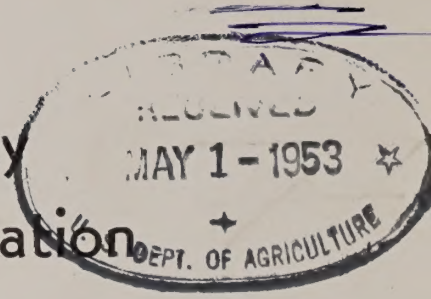


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Tompkins County Agricultural Conservation Program - 1953



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State Committee

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David G. Agne, Carl N. Emerling, Maurice L. Mallery, Ferris Talmadge

L. R. Simons, *Director of Extension*

County Committee

S. W. Barnes, *Chairman*

Harold Laue, *Vice Chairman*

Ralph Myers, *Regular Member*



Community Committeemen meet at Farm Bureau Office to discuss 1953 Conservation Program and plan annual meetings. *Photo by Bradley Donahoe.*

Farmer Fieldman—Ernest Cobb, Greene, N. Y.

T. W. Vann, *Administrative Assistant*

Ernest T. Cole, *Secretary to County Committee*

Vera E. Bower, *Secretary-Treasurer*

The Shopping Plaza, Ithaca, New York

Telephone—Ithaca 4-1247

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The 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program — Tompkins County

PART I — GENERAL

(a) Policies and Objectives

To meet current needs for defense and the increase in population, the Nation's farmers are being called on to produce more than they have ever produced before. At the same time, to safeguard the future of the Nation, their farms must be protected against erosion and depletion and their acres put in condition to meet the ever increasing demands of a rapidly growing country.

Population in the United States is increasing at the rate of 7,400 every 24 hours. For every 4 people in this country who now depend on the production from our farms there will be 5 people by 1975. The production so essential to the welfare of all the people and the strength and prosperity of the Nation must come largely from the land now being farmed. The possible further expansion of the Nation's cropland acres will leave us far short of meeting our Nation's future agricultural requirements.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is a government-farmer partnership not only for improving our soil and water resources, but as insurance that those resources will not be depleted to the extent that the national economy and the health and welfare of all the people of the country will suffer. The Government's contribution through the program represents a small part of the total cost of conservation activities carried on by farmers. It is a means by which nonfarmers invest in the future of America.

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Nation provides assistance to aid individual farmers in protecting and improving their land and in conserving water. The 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program for New York State was developed jointly by the Production and Marketing Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Forest Service, with the assistance of other interested State and Federal agencies.

The 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program places more definite and direct emphasis on providing assistance only for the most urgently needed conservation on an individual farm. Every effort will be made to see that the program assistance is directed to those soil and water conservation practices which farmers would not carry out to the extent necessary for the national welfare without this assistance. Every effort will be made to see that program assistance is shifted away from those practices which are becoming established in farmers' regular operations on their farms. This assistance will be used to encourage and aid farmers to carry out conservation over and above what they would do with their own resources and on their own initiative.

(b) Program Year

The program year for the State begins November 1, 1952 and ends December 31, 1953. However, in any individual community the program year may not begin until the farm contacts have been completed and the county committee has issued notices of approved practices to all farmers enrolled in the program.

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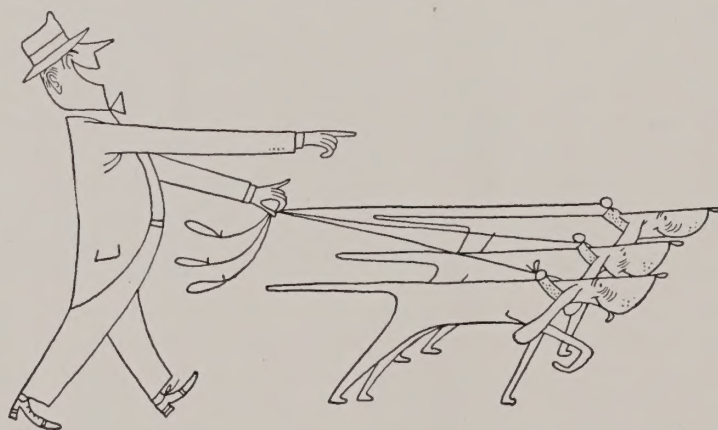
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(c) Assistance Available to Each County

Funds available for the program will be divided on the basis of conservation needs among the communities in the County by the County committee. Each community committee will be notified of the funds available for the program in its community and of any limits which may apply with respect to the amount of funds available for individual practices or groups of practices. The County committee may reallocate to other communities any balance of funds not allocated to farms by community committees.

The County Program

The Tompkins County Agricultural Conservation program was developed in accordance with provisions of the State handbook. This PMA Program was formulated by the County PMA committee and the designated representatives of SCS, District Forester of the New York State Conservation Service representing the Forest Service, the County Extension Agent, the Supervisor of the Farm Home Administration and the governing body of the Soil Conservation District.

The 1953 Tompkins County Agricultural Conservation Program has been approved by the New York State PMA Committee.

The 1953 program is in agreement with our Agricultural Resources Conservation Program and designed to accomplish its objectives—the full use of each acre of agricultural land and the treatment of each acre of land in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement.

Practices in this program were selected from the State handbook and are designed to maintain or increase soil fertility, control or prevent soil erosion, encourage conservation and better use of water, conserve and increase pasture forage, conserve and improve farm woodlands and assist in making possible the production of agricultural commodities needed in the defense effort.

(f) Amount of Assistance Available for Each Farm

Assistance will be given farmers in carrying out the practices listed in this handbook by making payments in cash and by furnishing liming material, superphosphate, mixtures of phosphate and potash, and such other materials or services as the State committee may select for carrying out practices.

It shall be the objective of the program to direct assistance to the conservation practices most needed on each farm. In furthering this objective, the community committeeman and each farm operator, working together on the farm, before the 1953 program begins, should review the conservation problems of the farm, taking into consideration any conservation plan developed by the farmer with the assistance of any State or Federal agency. After the farm operator and his community committeeman have agreed on the practices most needed to contribute to more permanent protection and improvement of the farm lands, the farm operator will be given an opportunity to request the program assistance which he and the committeeman consider necessary for those practices. The county committeeman's recommendations thereon, shall direct the available assistance to those practices most essential to the accomplishment of increased and sustained agricultural production on the farms in the county.

The community committee, under the supervision of the county committee, will determine for each participating farm the amount of payment for each practice which will be approved. Total approvals granted must necessarily be limited by the total amount of funds allocated to the county.

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The total of all payments made in connection with the 1953 program to any person shall not exceed \$2,500. The practice payments herein provided may be adjusted on the basis of funds hereafter made available by the Congress.

(g) Prior Approval of Practices

Prior approval of the county committee is required for all practices. Written notice of the approved practices shall be given to farm operators before performance of any of the approved practices for the farm is started. For practices for which (1) approval was given under the 1952 Agricultural Conservation Program, (2) performance was started but not completed during the 1952 program year, and (3) the county committee believes the extension of the approval to the 1953 program is justified under the 1953 program regulations and provision, the approval of the practice under the 1952 program may be regarded as meeting the prior approval requirement and the prior notice of approval requirement of the 1953 program.

The assistance originally approved by the county committee for particular practices may not be changed to other practices, unless (1) the farmer establishes to the satisfaction of the county committee that it was impossible to carry out the originally approved practices because of serious illness, adverse weather conditions, inability to obtain materials or services required to carry out the practices, or (2) a necessary major change has been made in the operation of the farm which renders the first approved practices inapplicable, or (3) it is then possible to carry out more needed practices not selected originally because at that time there appeared to be no possibility of getting them carried out during the year, or (4) the practice is one for which the Soil Conservation Service or Forest Service has been assigned technical responsibility and, after tentative county committee approval thereof, it is determined by the agency that the practice is not needed nor practical, or (5) a new practice is included in the program after it begins. Practices may be substituted under these conditions only if the farmer's reasons for requesting the substitution are recorded in the county office and approved by the county committee before performance of the substituted practice is started.

(h) Conservation Materials

Agricultural liming material, superphosphate, and mixtures of phosphate and potash will be furnished to eligible farmers who desire them for carrying out approved practices.

For 1953, the small payment increase will not be advanced to reduce the farmer's share of the cost. However, SPI earned will be paid to producer by check at close of program.

For materials or services furnished under contract, the farmer will pay his share of the cost to the county committee at the time of placing his order. For materials or services furnished under the purchase plan, the farmer will pay to the dealer an amount not in excess of the difference between the fair price established for such materials or services and the county rate of payment for the practice. Fair prices will be established by the State committee and each county committee will be notified of the fair prices applicable to the county.

Materials or services may not be furnished to producers who are on the register of indebtedness.

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Title to any material distributed by the ACP Branch, either directly or through purchase orders, shall vest in the ACP Branch until the material is applied or all charges for the material are satisfied. Producers to whom materials are furnished shall be responsible for making proper use of the material.

(i) Practices Carried Out with State or Federal Aid

Payment for any practice carried out in whole or in part with State or Federal aid will be reduced for purposes of payment by the value of the aid as determined by the county committee. The assistance for any practice will not be reduced because it is carried out with materials or services furnished by the ACP Branch or by any agency of a State to another agency of the same State, or with technical advisory services furnished by a State or Federal agency.

(k) Forfeiture of Payment

Any Person shall not be eligible to receive any payment under the program and shall refund all payments that have been made to him under the program, if the State committee finds that (1) he has knowingly filed claim for payment under the program for practices not carried out, or for practices carried out in such a manner that they do not meet the required specifications therefor, or (2) he has knowingly used a purchase order issued to him for a purpose other than that for which it was issued and that such misuse of the purchase order tends to defeat the purpose for which it was issued. The withholding or refunding of payments will be in addition to and not in substitution of any other penalty or liability which might otherwise be imposed.

(l) Final Dates for Requesting Assistance and Filing Applications for Payment

Any producer on a farm which is enrolled in the 1953 program may participate. A farm is considered enrolled if one of the producers on the farm files with the community or county committee a signed Form ACP-201, "Request for Assistance, 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program," for the farm, and the county committee gives prior approval for the practices to be carried out on the farm. The final date for requesting assistance under the 1953 ACP is January 1, 1953 or such earlier date as may be established by the County Committee. Prior notice of any such earlier date will be mailed to all producers in the community. Exceptions to the final date may be made only for individual hardship cases such as: prolonged illness, absence of the operator from the county during the sign-up period, acquisition of an interest in a farm as owner, operator, or tenant, after the closing date, or adverse weather conditions which prevent the completion of contacts with farmers before the closing date for enrollment.

Payments will be made to producers only upon application made on the prescribed form submitted to the county office not later than February 28, 1954. No application which will result in a cash payment for the producer shall be prepared from a report of performance which is filed in the county office after January 31, 1954. Upon recommendation of the county committee and approval of the State committee, exceptions to the final dates stated above may be made, but only in cases where the producer files the required form by December 31, 1954, and provides conclusive evidence that his failure to comply with the final dates was due to reasons beyond his control.

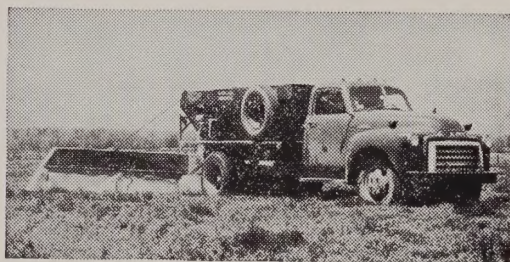
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COOPERATIVE FARM CREDIT

By Farmers for Farmers

(m) General Program Provisions

In addition to the information set forth in this handbook, the general provisions of the program included in the 1953 National Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin, 1061 (53)-1 (17 F.R. 6995), are applicable.

PART II — PRACTICES AND RATES OF PAYMENT

SECTION I

A. APPLYING MINERAL ELEMENTS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADEQUATE GROWTH OF SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS

Practice 1—Liming Materials

Rate of Payment: Per ton of standard ground limestone or its equivalent. \$4.60 per ton.

Payment will be made for applying liming material to pasture, cropland, orchards, or vineyards for the purpose of making possible the establishment and adequate growth of soil conserving crops.

If practicable, the soil should be tested to determine the need for liming material and the amount needed.

Equivalents for liming materials other than standard ground limestone will be established by the State committee taking into consideration the oxide content, fineness, and moisture content. No credit will be allowed for the use of any material which is determined by the State committee to be unsuitable for use in the area.

Practice 2—Phosphate

Rates of Payment: \$0.025 per pound of available P_2O_5 contained in—

- (a) Normal superphosphate (20 percent or less available P_2O_5).
- (b) Concentrated superphosphate (over 20 percent available P_2O_5).
- (c) Mixed fertilizers.

This is equivalent to:

- \$0.50 per hundredweight for 20 percent superphosphate.
- \$0.475 per hundredweight for 19 percent superphosphate.
- \$0.45 per hundredweight for 18 percent superphosphate.
- \$1.125 per hundredweight for 45 percent superphosphate.

Payment will be made for the application of available phosphoric acid (P_2O_5), either in mixed fertilizers or in superphosphate, (1) in connection with establishing seedings of biennial or perennial legumes or mixtures of biennial or perennial legumes and grasses for forage or cover crops, or (2) as a top dressing on established sods.

On farms using a rotation in which at least 50 percent of the cropland is devoted to conserving crops, payment will be made for the use of superphosphate mixed with manure in the stable or on dropping boards and applied on the same farm to crops other than cash crops.

Application must be made at such time that the eligible crop will receive the principle benefit of the material.

Practice 3—Potash

Rate of Payment: \$0.03 per pound of available potash (K_2O).

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Payment will be made for the application of available potash (K_2O), either in a mixed fertilizer or alone, (1) in connection with establishing seedings of biennial or perennial legumes or mixtures of biennial or perennial legumes and grasses for forage or cover crops, or (2) as a top dressing on established sods.

Application must be made at such time that the eligible crop will receive the principal benefit of the material.

B. GROWING ADAPTED COVER CROPS AND GREEN MANURE CROPS FOR SOIL PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

Practice 4—Cover Crops: Rye, Wheat, Ryegrass

Rates of Payment:

- (a) \$2.00 per acre for rye or wheat cover crop.
- (b) \$2.00 per acre for ryegrass cover crop.

Payment will be made for planting rye, wheat, or ryegrass on cropland, or in orchards or vineyards to leave for cover over the winter of 1953-54. A good stand and good growth must be obtained and left on the land or turned under. Payment will not be made if the crop is harvested for hay or grain. Volunteer stands will not qualify.



A good stand and growth of rye-grass planted at the last cultivation of corn. Rye-grass prevents erosion and it's abundant top and root growth add valuable humus to the soil. It makes footing for harvesting equipment in the fall and provides early spring pasture. Sow around 15 to 20 pounds of seed per acre.—*Ernest Cole, County Agricultural Agent.*

Practice 6—Turning under Sweetclover, Red Clover, Alsike Clover, or Alfalfa

Rates of Payment:

- (a) \$1.50 per acre for turning under sweetclover.
- (b) \$1.50 per acre for turning under red clover or alsike clover.
- (c) \$1.50 per acre for turning under alfalfa.

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Payment will be made for the plowing or disking under of a good stand and a good green growth of sweet, red, or alsike clover, which was used as a cover crop over the winter of 1952-53 on cropland or in orchards or vineyards. Payment will not be made for any acreage from which a crop of hay or seed has been harvested. Volunteer stands will not qualify.

Payment will also be made for plowing or disking under a good stand and a good green growth of first- or second-year alfalfa from which no hay, seed, or pasture is taken in 1953. Volunteer stands will not qualify.

Practice 7—Summer Green Manure Crops

Rates of Payment:

- (a) \$1.50 per acre for small grains or millet.
- (b) \$1.50 per acre for annual legumes.
- (c) \$1.50 per acre for Sudan grass.

Payment will be made for planting and growing during the summer of 1953 a good stand and good growth on cropland or in orchards or vineyards, of annual legumes, (excluding vegetable and truck crops for sale and soybeans for seed or oil), small grains, millet, or Sudan grass which is plowed under in the fall and followed by a fall-sown crop. The crop will not qualify for payment if harvested for hay, grain, or seed. Volunteer stands will not qualify.

C. MULCHING FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Practice 8—Mulching Commercial Orchards or Vineyards

Rate of Payment: \$3.00 per ton.

Payment will be made for the application as a mulch, to commercial orchards or vineyards, of air-dried straw or hay or its equivalent as determined by the county committee, including wood chips, sawdust and shavings. It is recommended that at least 2 tons per acre be applied. No credit will be allowed for barnyard or stable manure, or any material produced in the orchards or vineyards on the same farm. All materials produced on the land during the 1953 program year from grasses, legumes, green manure crops, or clover crops, as well as the mulching material, must be left on the land. Such crops or material, however, may be plowed under or disked.

The Soil Conservation Service is responsible for the technical phases of practices 10 through 16. This responsibility shall include (1) a finding that the practice is needed and practical on the farm, (2) necessary site selection, other preliminary work, and lay-out work of the practice, (3) necessary supervision of the installation, and (4) certification of performance. The specifications for practices 12 through 16 were prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and are the same as used in their regular work. The details are found in Technical Specifications for Conservation Practices, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Northeastern Region, October 1951, copies of which are on file in each PMA and SCS headquarters. Prior approval for payment for these practices shall be made by the county committee, with the assistance of the community committees, the same as for other practices.

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SECTION II

D. IMPROVING PERMANENT PASTURES TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN A DESIRABLE VEGETATIVE COVER AND TO OBTAIN A BETTER SOIL CONSERVING CROPPING SYSTEM

Practice 10—Clearing Land Suitable for Improved Permanent Pasture

Rate of Payment: 50 percent of the cost of carrying out the practice, as determined by the county committee, but not in excess of \$10 per acre.

Payment will be made for clearing permanent pastures by the removal of trees, brush, stumps, weeds, and stone, and leveling hummocks, in preparation for an improved pasture management system. Payment will be made only for clearing land already in use as permanent pasture. Payment will be approved only if the county committee is satisfied that adequate amounts of lime, phosphate, and potash has been applied and a satisfactory pasture mixture seeded as soon as practicable on the land cleared. Payment will be limited to the acreage needed in addition to the existing improved pasture to provide sufficient pasture for livestock on the farm. No assistance will be given for clearing a stand of merchantable timber or pulpwood. In those counties where the county committee, the designated representative of the Soil Conservation Service in the county, and the Forest Service representative having jurisdiction of farm forestry in the county determine that there is need for making a prior determination that land to be cleared under this practice is suitable for clearing for the purpose of the practice, the Soil Conservation Service technician shall have the responsibility for such prior determination of suitability.



You can't control the rain. However, you can manage the water once it falls on your farm. Diversion ditches, tile, open ditches, contour strip-cropping, long term hay, improved pastures and ungrazed woodlots are all parts of a water management program for your farm. The man who learns to make water work for him is in that much better position to meet competition.—*Rod Fellows, Soil Conservationist.*

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E. PROTECTING SOIL FROM EROSION

Practice 11—Removing Stone Walls and Hedgerows

Rate of Payment: 50 percent of the cost of removal as determined by the county committee, but not in excess of \$5 per square rod of surface occupied by the stone wall or hedgerow before removal.

Payment will be made for the removal of stone walls and hedgerows in preparation for the construction of diversion terraces or the carrying out of contour farming or cross-slope farming. The diversion terraces or the contour or cross-slope farming must be established by December 31, 1953. No payment will be made where the removal is only for the purpose of enlarging fields to facilitate the use of farm equipment.

Practice 12—Constructing Diversions

Rate of Payment: 70 percent of the cost of earth moving, as determined by the county committee.

Payment will be made for the construction of diversion ditches or terraces to collect or divert excess water. Payment will not be made unless the waterway is seeded or sodded, and unless proper outlets and the necessary protective vegetation in the outlets are provided.

Practice 13—Establishing a Contour Stripcropping System

Rate of Payment: \$4 per acre.

Payment will be made for establishing a contour stripcropping system on land not terraced or previously stripcropped, to protect against washing or blowing of soil, to reduce run-off, and to conserve water.

Practice 14—Controlling Stream Bank Erosion

Rate of Payment: 50 percent of the cost of clearing, shaping, and protective operations, as determined by the county committee.

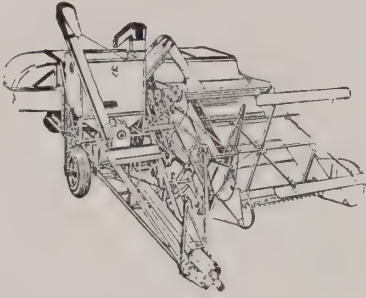
Payment will be made for the control of small streams to prevent erosion or flood damage to farm land by clearing of obstructions, planting, and installation of necessary structures. Work will be done only on sections of streams where the section below or the section above will not affect the installed measures. Surveys and plans shall be made by or under the supervision of a competent engineer. All plans shall be approved in accordance with policies and procedures of the Soil Conservation Service. In determining the total cost of the project, the county committee will consider only (1) the cost of moving the earth as required to clear the channel and shape the banks, (2) the cost of the construction of riprap or deflectors, and (3) the cost of the shrubs or seedlings and their planting.

F. DRAINING LAND TO PERMIT LAND-USE ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED IN ESTABLISHING SOIL CONSERVING CROPPING SYSTEMS

Practice 15—Installing Tile Drainage Systems

Rates of Payment:

- (a) 8 cents per foot of 4-inch tile
- (b) 13 cents per foot of 6-inch tile
- (c) 19 cents per foot of 8-inch or larger tile



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Payment will be made for installing tile drainage systems for the purpose of draining cropland, orchards, or pasture. Fiber pipe may be used if recommended by SCS. Adequate outlets must be provided. No payment will be made for repairing or maintaining an existing tile drainage system.

Practice 16—Constructing Permanent Open Drainage Ditches

Rate of Payment: 70 percent of the cost of carrying out the practice, as determined by the county committee, but not in excess of 12 cents per cubic yard.

Payment will be made for constructing or enlarging permanent open drainage ditches for the purpose of draining cropland, orchards, or pastures. No payment will be made for cleaning or maintaining an existing ditch. Adequate outlets must be provided.

SECTION III

The Forest Service is responsible for the technical phases of the practices in this group. This responsibility shall include (1) providing necessary specialized technical assistance, (2) development of specifications for forestry practices, and (3) working through State and county committees, determining compliance in meeting these specifications. The carrying out of these responsibilities has been delegated to the District Foresters of the New York State Conservation Department. Prior approval for payment for these practices shall be made by the county committee, with the assistance of the community committees, the same as for other practices.

G. ESTABLISHING, IMPROVING, AND MAINTAINING FARM WOODLANDS TO PREVENT EROSION AND CONSERVE WATER

Practice 17—Planting Forest Trees

Rate of Payment: \$10 per 1,000 trees.

Payment will be made for the planting of forest trees for forestry purposes, windbreaks, shelterbelts, erosion control, and improvement of wildlife habitat. The following species of forest trees are recommended for planting: Scotch pine, red pine, Austrian pine, (for soil cover only), Norway spruce, white spruce, European larch, Japanese larch, Douglas fir, and black locust.

The following spacing is recommended: Red pine and larch, 8-feet-by-8-feet; white pine and Douglas fir, 5-feet-by-5-feet; other species 6-feet-by-6-feet as a general rule but may vary according to site conditions and object of planting; in no case less than 5 feet or more than 8 feet apart.

Planted areas must be given reasonable protection against damage from burning or livestock grazing.

When any part of the cost of completing this practice is furnished by a State or Federal agency, the payment will be reduced as indicated in Part I, paragraph (i). Where trees are furnished and planting service is free to farmers, no payment will be made.

Practice 18—Improving Woodlands

Rate of Payment: \$15 per acre.

Payment will be made for the improvement of an immature stand of forest trees having an average d.b.h. of less than 6 inches under a system of farm wood-

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land and wildlife management which will include thinning and in the case of softwood plantations, pruning of branches of selected trees. A residual stand of at least 200 trees of desirable species, 2 inches and over, d.b.h. must be left on each acre of woodland improved. No assistance will be given for any area from which merchantable products are harvested in the process of carrying out the practice, unless the county committee determines that the primary purpose of the operation was the improvement of the residual stand of trees.

Payment will not be made for improving white pine stands unless currant and gooseberry bushes are removed from among the trees and throughout a protective border consistent with good woodland management.

This practice must be carried out under the recommendation of a forester of the New York State Conservation Department or other qualified forester.



See practices 17, 18, and 19 in this bulletin, Planting Forest Trees, Improving Woodland and excluding livestock from woodlots by fencing. The Forest Service, James Kennedy, Cortland, N. Y., District Forester is responsible for the technical phases of the practices in this group.

Practice 19—Excluding Livestock from Woodlots by Fencing

Rate of Payment: 50 percent of the cost of the fencing materials as determined by the county committee.

Payment will be made for excluding livestock from woodlots by the construction of a permanent fence consisting of at least two strands of barbed wire. No payment will be made for repairing or mending an existing fence.

When any part of the cost of completing this practice is furnished by a State or Federal agency, the payment will be reduced as indicated in Part I, paragraph (i).



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